

**OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – GRADUATE STUDIES**

**Guidelines and Regulations for Completion of Master’s and PhD Degrees**

*Administrative Update: September, 2010*

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*NOTE:* These Guidelines incorporate amendments to the Graduate Council By-Laws approved in September 2009.

**Introduction**

This document summarizes general policies and procedures related to completing requirements for the master’s degree or PhD degree in the School of Medicine at the Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU). This document implements policies specified in the School of Medicine Graduate Council By-Laws. It is intended to reflect the By-Laws, but should not be considered a replacement for policies specified in the By-Laws.

In accord with the By-Laws, the word “Program” in this document refers to a department, interdepartmental committee or other School of Medicine administrative unit that has received approval from the Faculty Council and has been accredited to offer an educational program leading to the Master’s or PhD degree. “Program Director” refers to the department chair, chair of the interdepartmental committee, or director of the administrative unit responsible for overseeing the Program. Responsibility for representing the program may be delegated to a member of the program faculty when deemed appropriate by the Program Director.

The current School of Medicine Graduate Council By-Laws can be found on the Graduate Studies Website at <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/students/upload/ByLaws-Rev-9-2009.pdf>

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**Section 1**

**General Procedures for Completing the Master’s Degree without Thesis Requirement**

The following Master’s programs have degrees that do not require completion of a thesis:

- Master in Biomedical Informatics
- Master of Clinical Dietetics
- Master of Clinical Research
- Master of Physician Assistant Studies
- Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management
- Master of Science in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Master of Science in Computer Science & Engineering
- Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Master of Science in Environmental & Biomolecular Biology
- Master of Science in Management in Science & Technology

This section describes the procedures and documentation needed to receive a Master’s degree in programs with no thesis requirement in the School of Medicine at OHSU. Students and mentors/advisors should note the relevant deadlines. Most actions are initiated by the student or Program Director, are approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and are recorded in the Registrar's Office.

**NOTE:** The current versions of all *FORMS* mentioned in this section are available for downloading from the Graduate Studies Program web page: <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/faculty/administration-forms.cfm> .

Unless otherwise noted, all forms should be returned to the School of Medicine Graduate Studies Office (Room 4155 Mackenzie Hall, L102 GS).

**1. Graduate Work Required**

- a) 45 term hours of approved graduate credits are required for Masters Programs without a Thesis Requirement.
- b) All coursework applied towards degree requirements must meet the minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0.
- c) The time limit from matriculation to granting the Master degree shall be limited to six academic years unless waived for a leave of absence under the By-Laws Article IX Section K.
- d) Master Degree Programs do not all require summer registration, therefore the time period from matriculation to granting the MS degree shall be 18 terms without summer term or 24 terms including summer, whichever is greater.
- e) Required courses must be completed before these time limits or they must be re-taken.
- f) Students who do not complete degree requirements within the specific time limit will be recommended for dismissal.
- g) Under special circumstances, in which strong justification exists, Graduate Council may grant a one-time extension of up to one year at the recommendation of the student’s Program Director (By-Law Article IX Section I).

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2. **Master’s Program Mentor/Advisor Assignment.** The student’s selection of a mentor/advisor must be approved by the Director of the student’s graduate program and by the Director of the mentor’s primary administrative unit. Documentation of these approvals will be obtained using the *MASTER’S PROGRAM MENTOR/ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT* form, which should be forwarded to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies as soon as the mentor/advisor is assigned. A new form should be submitted whenever there is a change in the mentor/advisor assignment.
3. **Completion of Program Requirements.** Students in all master’s programs must complete an approved course in ethics and professional conduct and all other academic requirements specified by the Program (e.g., capstone project).
4. **Final Steps.** OHSU awards diplomas each term, based on the completion of final paperwork. Students must complete all requirements, and have all paperwork in the Office of Graduate Studies, before May 20<sup>th</sup> in order to participate in the graduation ceremonies in June of the same year. Student cooperation in completing these forms as completely as possible is appreciated.
  - a) **Application for Degree.** The Office of the Registrar requires that the *APPLICATION FOR DEGREE* form be completed and turned in to the Registrar’s Office one term prior to completing degree requirements. Exit contact information will be collected on the ‘Application for Degree’ form.
  - b) **Exit Photograph.** The School of Medicine Exit Photo consists of one (1) digital image from the OHSU Photography & Graphic Design or the student. Students may request not to have their photo included in the class photo by sending an email to [somgrad@ohsu.edu](mailto:somgrad@ohsu.edu).

OHSU Photography & Graphic Design

- One (1) black and white digital image at a cost of \$20.00.
- Students may request a copy of their exit photo be sent, free of charge, as an internet file transfer to their OHSU email account.
- Students may also request one (1) 2 x 3 black and white reprint of the exit photo for an additional \$5.00. These options may not be combined with other Medical Photography services.
- Students are responsible for the cost of the photography unless the Program agrees to cover this expense.
- To schedule the 15-min appointment, contact Medical Photography at (503) 494-8040, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Students should take the completed *EXIT PHOTO REQUEST* form to a scheduled appointment with Medical Photography located in Baird Hall - Room 10.
- Medical Photography will give students a receipt for the services selected. The yellow copy of this receipt must be received by the Graduate Studies Office (Mackenzie Hall Room 4155 or mail code L-102 GS).

Student Provided Digital Image requirements

- One (1) high quality digital image in .jpg format in either color or black & white.
- Image should be a head shot on plain background – in the style of a passport photo.

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5. **Graduation**

Information regarding graduation will be posted to the Graduate Studies website at <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/>

- a) **School of Medicine Commencement Ceremony.** This is a special event when graduate degrees are formally conferred for those who received a degree from the School of Medicine during the prior academic year. Family and friends are encouraged to attend and no ticket is required. For more information contact the Office of Graduate Studies (503) 494-6222.
- b) **Degrees will not be awarded** until all academic requirements have been met and the student pays all debts and discharges all other obligations he or she has to the University, including the Registrar’s graduation fee.

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**Section 2**

**General Procedures for Completing the Master’s Degree with Thesis Requirement**

A thesis is currently required to complete the master’s degree in the following programs:

- Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics
- Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Master of Science in Computer Science & Engineering
- Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Master of Science in Environmental & Biomolecular Biology

This section describes the procedures and documentation needed to receive a Master’s degree in programs requiring a thesis in the School of Medicine at OHSU. Students and mentors/advisors should note the relevant deadlines. Most actions are initiated by the student or Program Director, are approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and are recorded in the Registrar's Office.

**NOTE:** The current versions of all *FORMS* mentioned in this section are available for downloading from the Graduate Studies Program web page: <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/faculty/administration-forms.cfm>.

**1. Graduate Work Required**

- a) 60 term hours of approved graduate credits are required for a Masters in Public Health, 52 term hours of approved graduate credits for Informatics, and 45 term hours of approved graduate credits are required for all other Masters Programs.
- b) All coursework applied towards degree requirements must meet the minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0.
- c) The time limit from matriculation to granting the Master degree shall be limited to six academic years unless waived for a leave of absence under the By-Laws Article IX Section K.
- d) Master Degree Programs do not all require summer registration, therefore the time period from matriculation to granting the MS degree shall be 18 terms without summer term or 24 terms including summer, whichever is greater.
- e) Required courses must be completed before these time limits or they must be re-taken.
- f) Students who do not complete degree requirements within the specific time limit will be recommended for dismissal.
- g) Under special circumstances, in which strong justification exists, Graduate Council may grant a one-time extension of up to one year at the recommendation of the student’s Program Director (By-Law Article IX Section I).

**2. Master’s Program Mentor/Advisor Assignment.** The student’s selection of a mentor for the master’s thesis must be approved by the Director of the student’s graduate program and by the Director of the mentor’s primary administrative unit.

- a) The Mentor must be a member of the Graduate Faculty.

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- A listing of all members of the School of Medicine Graduate Faculty can be found on the Graduate Studies web page  
<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/faculty/index.cfm>
  - b) Documentation of these approvals will be obtained using the *MENTOR/ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT-MASTERS PROGRAMS* form, which should be forwarded to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies as soon as the mentor is assigned.
  - c) A new form should be submitted whenever there is a change in the mentor assignment.
3. **Request for Appointment of a Thesis Advisory Committee.** The Thesis Advisory Committee is appointed by the Program Director to guide and advise the student in the thesis research and preparation of the thesis document.
- a) The committee must be appointed within 1 year after admission to the program or upon commencement of the thesis research, whichever is earlier.
  - b) The committee must consist of no fewer than three members of the graduate faculty (from any program or administrative unit) who do not all have primary appointments in the same department, program or institute.
  - c) The Programs may request permission to replace one of the committee members by a recognized scholar who is not a member of the Graduate Faculty. This individual may not serve as Chairperson of the exam committee. Requests to appoint an outside member to the exam committee must be supported by a letter from the Program Director and a copy of the scholar’s curriculum vitae.
  - d) The candidate’s mentor should serve as a member of the committee.
  - e) The Program Director’s recommendation for appointment of the Advisory Committee will be sent to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for approval using the *REQUEST FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE* form.
  - f) The Advisory Committee is expected to meet at least annually to evaluate progress toward completion of the thesis.
    - With the approval of the Program Director, the committee may place a student on academic probation if it is determined that progress has not been adequate.
    - In such cases, the Program Director will notify the student and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in writing of the probationary status, specify in what way(s) the student is failing to meet standards and specify time limits for correcting the deficiencies.
    - If the student fails to correct the deficiencies within the specified time limits, the Program Director may recommend dismissal of the student.
4. **Completion of Program Requirements.** Students in all master’s programs must complete an approved course in ethics and professional conduct and all other academic requirements specified by the Program. These requirements must be completed before or during the term in which the final oral examination is scheduled.

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5. **Request for Oral Examination.** The Program Director must submit a signed *ORAL EXAMINATION REQUEST* form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at least 4 weeks before the scheduled oral defense date.
- a) This form lists the Program’s recommendations of individuals who would be suitable to serve on the Oral Examination Committee.
  - b) According to the Graduate Council By-Laws, the Oral Examination Committee for a dissertation defense:
    - Must include no fewer than three (3) members of the Graduate Faculty who do not all have primary appointments in the same department or institute.
    - Must be chaired by a member of the Graduate Faculty.
    - The student’s mentor should serve on the exam committee but may not serve as Chair.
    - Programs may request permission to replace one of the committee members by a recognized scholar who is not a member of the Graduate Faculty.
      1. This individual may not serve as Chairperson of the exam committee.
      2. Requests to appoint an outside member to the exam committee must be supported by a letter from the Program Director and a copy of the scholar’s curriculum vitae.
      3. Appointment of an outside member may be used to meet the requirement that:
        - ✓ Not all members have primary appointments in the same department or institute.
  - c) The Oral Exam Committee is appointed by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies based upon the recommendation of the student’s Program.
    - The examination request form must be signed by the Program Director and by the student’s mentor.
    - It must also include the proposed date, time and place of the seminar and defense.
  - d) Upon approval by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, the Office of Graduate Studies will return a copy to the Program for distribution with the dissertation.
    - The Chair will receive an email from Graduate studies with a copy of the copy of the approved Request for Oral Examination, a completed Oral Examination Certification form and the Oral Examination instructions.
  - e) Students must be registered for at least 1 hour of dissertation (503) credit during the term in which the Oral Examination occurs.
  - f) Students may not take the oral examination if they are on academic probation or if an Incomplete (I) grade remains on their transcript.
  - g) In order for a student to receive a diploma and participate in graduation ceremonies within a particular academic year, the dissertation defense must take place on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>, and all other degree requirements must be completed before May 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Post Notices Announcing the Oral Examination.** The oral examination must be held on campus and shall be open to the public.
- It is the responsibility of the Program to set the date, time and place of the oral exam and to post notices of the exam on campus.
  - A notice of the Oral Examination should be Office of Graduate Studies via the ‘Upcoming Events’ calendar located on the website at [www.ohsu.edu/som/graduate](http://www.ohsu.edu/som/graduate) for posting on the Graduate Studies website calendar.



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7. **Distribution of Thesis to Oral Examination Committee.**
- a) All members of the Examination Committee must receive the following at least two weeks prior to the oral exam:
    - An unbound copy of the dissertation from the student.
    - A copy of the approved *REQUEST FOR ORAL EXAMINATION* form which will be forwarded to the Chair by the Graduate Studies Office upon approval.
    - A copy of the “Instructions for Members of the Oral Examination Committee” which will be forwarded to the Chair by the Graduate Studies Office upon approval of the Request for Oral Examination.
  - b) Upon approval of the Request for Oral Examination form, the Office of Graduate Studies will prepare the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form for and forward to Chairperson of the Examination Committee with the “Instructions for the Chair of the Oral Examination Committee.
  - c) The *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form includes student’s name, thesis title, degree sought and names of committee members.
8. **Recording the outcome of the oral examination.** Upon approval of the Request for Oral Examination form, the Office of Graduate Studies will prepare the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form for and forward to Chairperson of the Examination Committee with the “Instructions for the Chair of the Oral Examination”.
- a) The *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form includes student’s name, thesis title, degree sought and names of committee members.
    - Each member of the committee evaluates the student’s examination performance as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory on the certification form.
    - The examination is considered to be satisfactory if a majority of the committee members record votes of satisfactory.
    - A tie vote will be considered as an unsatisfactory score for the oral examination.
    - In the event of a report of unsatisfactory on the oral examination, the examination committee will provide the student and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies with a written description of the deficiencies in the examination performance within 2 weeks of the examination.
  - b) The Chairperson of the Examination Committee is responsible for submitting the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form to the Graduate Studies Office within 2 working days after the oral examination.
9. **Petition for Re-examination.** If for some reason either the preparation of the student is deemed inadequate or the thesis is disapproved, the student may petition the Program for the opportunity to be re-examined.
10. **Final Steps after the Thesis Defense.** OHSU awards diplomas each term, based on the completion of final paperwork and thesis binding. The following requirements must be completed within six months following the completion of the Oral Examination. However, students must complete all requirements before May 20<sup>th</sup> in order to participate in the graduation ceremonies in June of the same year.



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- a) **Corrections to Thesis.** If necessary, make corrections to the thesis. All members of the Examination Committee who recorded a satisfactory vote for the oral examination must sign the *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page (see sample page 4-6 in this guide). Signing of the approval page indicates that all required corrections have been completed.
- All required corrections must be completed and approved by the Examination Committee within 6 months after the oral exam. Programs may impose a stricter deadline. Graduate Studies will defer to program.
  - Failure to submit an approved thesis within this time limit will void the oral exam and the oral examination would have to be retaken.
  - The ORIGINAL of the signed *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page must be taken to the OHSU Library with the ready to bind thesis.
- b) **Thesis Binding.** At least three copies of the thesis must be bound: one copy is deposited in the OHSU Library, one copy is for the Program, and one copy is for the student’s mentor. The OHSU Library arranges for binding of the copy deposited in the Library.
- The student must set up a brief appointment with library staff to process the thesis for binding. Contact Summer Steele at (503) 494-2399 or [steeles@ohsu.edu](mailto:steeles@ohsu.edu) to make an appointment.
  - The student must bring a copy of the thesis on acid-free paper (at least 20 lb weight). The required signatures must be obtained on the original *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* (see sample page 4-6) before binding.
  - The Library currently charges \$30.00 (price subject to change) per copy for binding, which may be paid by cash, check, credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or charged to an OHSU account. Students are responsible for the cost of binding unless their Program agrees to cover the expense.
  - It generally takes about 3 weeks for binding. The librarian will notify the student by phone or email when the copies are ready to be picked up.
  - The ORIGINAL binding receipt must be delivered to the Office of Graduate Studies (Mackenzie Hall Room 4155 or mail code L-102 GS). Please do not send your credit card receipt.
- c) **Application for Degree.** The Office of the Registrar requires that the *APPLICATION FOR DEGREE* form be completed and turned in to the Registrar’s Office one term prior to completing degree requirements. Exit contact information will be collected on the ‘Application for Degree’ form.
- d) **Exit Photograph.** The School of Medicine Exit Photo consists of one (1) digital image from the OHSU Photography & Graphic Design or the student. Students may request their photo not be included in the class photo by sending an email to [somgrad@ohsu.edu](mailto:somgrad@ohsu.edu).  
OHSU Photography & Graphic Design
- One (1) black and white digital image at a cost of \$20.00.
  - Students may request a copy of their exit photo be sent, free of charge, as an internet file transfer to their OHSU email account.
  - Students may also request one (1) 2 x 3 black and white reprint of the exit photo for an additional \$5.00. These options may not be combined with other Medical Photography services.

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- Students are responsible for the cost of the photography unless the Program agrees to cover this expense.
- To schedule the 15-min appointment, contact Medical Photography at (503) 494-8040, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Students should take the completed *EXIT PHOTO REQUEST* form to a scheduled appointment with Medical Photography located in Baird Hall - Room 10.
- Medical Photography will give students a receipt for the services selected. The yellow copy of this receipt must be received by the Graduate Studies Office (Mackenzie Hall Room 4155 or mail code L-102 GS).

Student Provided Digital Image requirements

- One (1) high quality digital image in .jpg format in either color or black & white.
  - Image should be a head shot on plain background – in the style of a passport photo.
- e) After all of the preceding requirements have been completed, the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies will review all paperwork and sign the Oral Exam Certification form.
- The original form will be forwarded to the Registrar as final approval of the thesis and acceptance for graduation.

**11. Graduation**

Information regarding graduation will be posted to the Graduate Studies website at <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/>

- a) **School of Medicine Commencement Ceremony.** This is a special event when graduate degrees are formally conferred for those who received a degree from the School of Medicine during the prior academic year. Family and friends are encouraged to attend and no ticket is required. For more information contact the Office of Graduate Studies (503) 494-6222.
- b) **Degrees will not be awarded** until all academic requirements have been met and the student pays all debts and discharges all other obligations he or she has to the University, including the Registrar’s graduation fee.

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**Section 3**

**General Procedures for Completing the PhD Degree**

This section describes the procedures and documentation needed to receive a PhD degree in the School of Medicine at OHSU. Students and mentors should note relevant deadlines. Most actions are initiated by the student or Program Director, are approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and are recorded in the Registrar's Office. Unless otherwise noted, all forms should be returned to the School of Medicine Graduate Studies Office (Room 4155 Mackenzie Hall, L102 GS).

**NOTE:** The current versions of all *FORMS* mentioned in this section are available for downloading from the Graduate Studies Program web page: <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/faculty/administration-forms.cfm> .

1. **Graduate Work Required.**
  - a) 135 term hours of approved graduate credits are required.
  - b) Graduate credit shall be granted only for course work completed during the 8 calendar years (32 terms) prior to completing all degree requirements.
  - c) Required courses must be completed before these time limits or they must be re-taken. These limits include an allowance for a one year degree extension (By-Law Article IX Section I).
  - d) All coursework applied towards degree requirements must meet the minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0.
  - e) The time limit from matriculation to granting the PhD degree shall be limited to 28 consecutive terms (seven academic years) unless waived for a leave of absence under the By-Law Article IX Section K.
  
2. **PhD Mentor Assignment.** The student’s selection of a mentor for the doctoral dissertation must be approved by the Director of the student’s graduate program and by the Director of the mentor’s primary administrative unit.
  - a) The Mentor must be a member of the Graduate Faculty.
    - A listing of all members of the School of Medicine Graduate Faculty can be found on the Graduate Studies web page <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/faculty/index.cfm>
  - b) Documentation of these approvals will be obtained using the *MENTOR ASSIGNMENT–PhD PROGRAMS* form, which should be forwarded to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies as soon as the mentor is assigned (typically at the end of first year).
  - c) A new form should be submitted whenever there is a change in the mentor assignment
  
3. **Advancement to PhD candidacy.** Advancement to PhD candidacy requires the successful completion of CONJ 650: The Practice and Ethics of Science (or an approved alternative course), the program’s Qualifying Examination and all other academic requirements specified by the Program.
  - a) Students may not take the Qualifying Examination if they are on academic probation or if an Incomplete (I) grade remains on their transcript.

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- b) The qualifying examination is given by the Program in which the student is registered.
  - c) Students are expected to take the qualifying exam by the end of their 12<sup>th</sup> term of graduate study; or they will be recommended for dismissal for failure to progress academically.
  - d) In the event of a report of unsatisfactory for the qualifying examination, the Program will provide the student and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies with a written description of the student’s deficiencies on the examination within 2 weeks of the examination. The Program will also notify the student of policies concerning re-examination.
  - e) Upon completion of all requirements, the Program Director will submit the *ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY* form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for approval. The Associate Dean will forward the approved form to the Registrar.
  - f) The Advancement to Candidacy form must be on record in the Registrar's office at least three (3) terms before the final oral examination for the PhD degree.
4. **Request for Appointment of a Dissertation Advisory Committee.** The Dissertation Advisory Committee is appointed by the Program Director to guide and advise the student in the dissertation research and preparation of the dissertation document.
- a) The committee must be appointed within 1 year after advancement to candidacy or upon commencement of the dissertation research, whichever is earlier.
  - b) The committee must consist of no fewer than four members of the graduate faculty who do not all have primary appointments in the same department or institute.
  - c) A listing of all members of the School of Medicine Graduate Faculty can be found on the Graduate Studies web page (<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/faculty/index.cfm> ).
  - d) The Program Director may request permission to replace one of the committee members by a recognized scholar who is not a member of the graduate faculty.
    - Requests to appoint an outside member to the Advisory Committee must be supported by a letter from the Program Director and a copy of the individual’s curriculum vitae.
  - e) The candidate’s mentor may be included as a member of the committee.
  - f) The Program Director’s recommendation for appointment of the Advisory Committee will be sent to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for approval using the *REQUEST FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE* form.
  - g) The Advisory Committee is expected to meet at least annually to evaluate progress toward completion of the dissertation.
    - With the approval of the Program Director, the committee may place a student on academic probation if it is determined that progress has not been adequate.
    - In such cases, the Program Director will notify the student and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in writing of the probationary status, specify in what way(s) the student is failing to meet standards and specify time limits for correcting the deficiencies.
    - If the student fails to correct the deficiencies within the specified time limits, the Program Director may recommend dismissal of the student.
5. **Request for Oral Examination.** The Program Director must submit a signed *REQUEST FOR ORAL EXAMINATION* form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at least 4 weeks before the scheduled oral defense date.

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- a) This form lists the Program’s recommendations of individuals who would be suitable to serve on the Oral Examination Committee.
  - b) According to the Graduate Council By-Laws, the Oral Examination Committee for a dissertation defense:
    - Must include no fewer than four (4) members of the Graduate Faculty who do not all have primary appointments in the same department or institute.
    - Must include at least one (1) member who is not a member of the student’s Dissertation Advisory Committee.
    - Must be chaired by a member of the Graduate Faculty.
    - The student’s mentor should serve on the committee but may not serve as Chair.
    - Programs may request permission to replace one of the committee members by a recognized scholar who is not a member of the Graduate Faculty.
      - 1) This individual may not serve as Chairperson of the exam committee.
      - 2) Requests to appoint an outside member to the exam committee must be supported by a letter from the Program Director and a copy of the scholar’s curriculum vitae.
      - 3) Appointment of an outside member may be used to meet the requirement that:
        - ✓ Not all members have primary appointments in the same department or institute, and/or
        - ✓ That the committee includes at least one member who was not a member of the student’s Advisory Committee.
  - c) The Oral Exam Committee is appointed by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies based upon the recommendation of the student’s Program.
    - The examination request form must be signed by the Program Director and by the student’s mentor.
    - It must also include the proposed date, time and place of the seminar and defense.
  - d) Upon approval by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, the Office of Graduate Studies will return a copy to the Program for distribution with the dissertation.
    - The Chair will receive an email from Graduate studies with a copy of the copy of the approved Request for Oral Examination, a completed Oral Examination Certification form and the Oral Examination instructions.
  - e) Students must be registered for at least 1 hour of dissertation (603) credit during the term in which the Oral Examination occurs.
  - f) Students may not take the oral examination if they are on academic probation or if an Incomplete (I) grade remains on their transcript.
  - g) In order for a student to receive a diploma and participate in graduation ceremonies within a particular academic year, the dissertation defense must take place on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>, and all other degree requirements must be completed before May 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Post Notices Announcing the Oral Examination.** The oral examination must be held on campus and shall be open to the public.
- It is the responsibility of the Program to set the date, time and place of the oral examination and to post notices of the examination on campus

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- A notice of the Oral Examination should be Office of Graduate Studies via the ‘Upcoming Events’ calendar located on the website at [www.ohsu.edu/som/graduate](http://www.ohsu.edu/som/graduate) for posting on the Graduate Studies website calendar.
7. **Distribution of Dissertation to Oral Examination Committee.**
- a) All members of the Examination Committee must receive the following at least two weeks prior to the oral examination:
    - An unbound copy of the dissertation from the student.
    - A copy of the approved *REQUEST FOR ORAL EXAMINATION* form which will be forwarded to the Chair by the Graduate Studies Office upon approval.
    - A copy of the “Instructions for Members of the Oral Examination Committee” which will be forwarded to the Chair by the Graduate Studies Office upon approval of the Request for Oral Examination.
  - b) Upon approval of the Request for Oral Examination form, the Office of Graduate Studies will prepare the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form for and forward to the Chairperson of the Examination Committee with the “Instructions for the Chair of the Oral Examination Committee.
  - c) The *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form includes student’s name, thesis title, degree sought and names of committee members.
8. **Recording the outcome of the oral examination.** Upon approval of the Request for Oral Examination form, the Office of Graduate Studies will prepare the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form for and forward to Chairperson of the Examination Committee with the “Instructions for the Chair of the Oral Examination”.
- a) The *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form includes student’s name, thesis title, degree sought and names of committee members.
    - Each member of the committee evaluates the student’s examination performance as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory on the certification form.
    - The examination is considered to be satisfactory if a majority of the committee members record votes of satisfactory.
    - A tie vote will be considered as an unsatisfactory score for the oral examination.
    - In the event of a report of unsatisfactory on the oral examination, the examination committee will provide the student and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies with a written description of the deficiencies in the examination performance within 2 weeks of the examination.
  - b) The Chairperson of the Examination Committee is responsible for submitting the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form to the Graduate Studies Office within 2 working days after the oral examination.
9. **Petition for Re-examination.** If for some reason either the preparation of the student is deemed inadequate or the dissertation is disapproved, the student may petition the Program for the opportunity to be re-examined.



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10. **Final Steps After the Dissertation Defense.** OHSU awards diplomas each term, based on the completion of final paperwork and thesis binding. The following requirements must be completed within six months following the completion of the Oral Examination. However, students must complete all requirements before May 20<sup>th</sup> in order to participate in the graduation ceremonies in June of the same year.
- a) **Corrections to Dissertation.** If necessary, make corrections to the dissertation.
- All members of the Examination Committee who recorded a satisfactory vote for the oral examination must sign the *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page (see sample in this guide). Signing of the approval page indicates that all required corrections have been completed.
  - All required corrections must be completed and approved by the Examination Committee within 6 months after the oral exam. Programs may impose a stricter deadline. Graduate Studies will defer to program.
  - Failure to submit an approved dissertation within this time limit will void the oral exam and the oral examination will need to be retaken.
  - The original of the signed *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page must be taken to the Library to bind the dissertation.
- b) **Dissertation Binding.** At least three copies of the dissertation must be bound: one copy is deposited in the OHSU Library, one copy is for the Program, and one copy is for the student’s mentor.
- The student must set up a brief appointment with library staff to process the thesis for binding. Contact Summer Steele at (503) 494-2399 or [steeles@ohsu.edu](mailto:steeles@ohsu.edu) to make an appointment.
  - The student must bring a copy of the thesis on acid-free paper (at least 20 lb weight). The required signatures must be obtained on the original *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* (see sample page 4-6) before binding.
  - The Library currently charges \$30.00 (price subject to change) per copy for binding, which may be paid by cash, check, credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or charged to an OHSU account.
  - Students are responsible for the cost of binding unless their Program agrees to cover the expense.
  - It generally takes about 3 weeks for binding. The librarian will notify the student by phone or email when the copies are ready to be picked up.
  - The ORIGINAL binding receipt must be delivered to the Office of Graduate Studies (Mackenzie Hall Room 4155 or mail code L-102 GS). Please do not send your credit card receipt.
- c) **Application for Degree.** The Office of the Registrar requires that the *APPLICATION FOR DEGREE* form be completed and is required in the Registrar’s Office one term prior to completing degree requirements. Exit contact information will be collected on the ‘Application for Degree’ form.
- d) **Exit Photograph.** The School of Medicine Exit Photo consists of one (1) digital image from the OHSU Photography & Graphic Design or the student. Students may request their photo not be included in the class photo by sending an email to [somgrad@ohsu.edu](mailto:somgrad@ohsu.edu).  
OHSU Photography & Graphic Design



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- One (1) black and white digital image at a cost of \$20.00.
- Students may request a copy of their exit photo be sent, free of charge, as an internet file transfer to their OHSU email account.
- Students may also request one (1) 2 x 3 black and white reprint of the exit photo for an additional \$5.00. These options may not be combined with other Medical Photography services.
- Students are responsible for the cost of the photography unless the Program agrees to cover this expense.
- To schedule the 15-min appointment, contact Medical Photography at (503) 494-8040, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Students should take the completed *EXIT PHOTO REQUEST* form to a scheduled appointment with Medical Photography located in Baird Hall - Room 10.
- Medical Photography will give students a receipt for the services selected. The yellow copy of this receipt must be received by the Graduate Studies Office (Mackenzie Hall Room 4155 or mail code L-102 GS).

Student Provided Digital Image requirements

- One (1) high quality digital image in .jpg format in either color or black & white.
  - Image should be a head shot on plain background – in the style of a passport photo.
- e) **Survey of Earned Doctorates.** The required Survey of Earned Doctorates can be found at <http://survey.norc.uchicago.edu/doctorate>. Student responses are confidential, except for the postgraduate placement information (institution and job title), which may be shared with the programs.
- f) After all of the preceding requirements have been completed, the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies will review all paperwork and sign the Oral Exam Certification form.
- The original form will be forwarded to the Registrar as final approval of the thesis and acceptance for graduation.

## 11. Graduation

Information regarding graduation will be posted to the Graduate Studies website at <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/academic-programs/graduate-studies/>

- a) **School of Medicine Commencement Ceremony.** This is a special event when graduate degrees are formally conferred for those who received a degree from the School of Medicine during the prior academic year. Family and friends are encouraged to attend and no ticket is required. For more information contact the Office of Graduate Studies: (503) 494-6222.
- b) **Degrees will not be awarded** until all academic requirements have been met and the student pays all debts and discharges all other obligations he or she has to the University, including the Registrar’s graduation fee.

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**Section 4**

**Instructions for Preparing the Graduate Thesis**

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**Introduction**

The awarding of the degrees of Master of Science (M.S.), Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) provides recognition by OHSU that the student has performed creditable scientific investigation. The documentary evidence of this investigation is to be submitted as a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation by the candidate for approval by the student’s advisor/mentor, the student’s Program and the faculty of the School of Medicine. The thesis or dissertation is presented not only to this faculty, but also to the scientific community as a whole. Therefore, it should attest to the student’s understanding and appreciation of the fundamental principles of the scientific method.

The student must present a written description of scientific work carried out during the course of graduate study. Usually, the master’s thesis is a report of original scientific work conducted by the student under close supervision of the faculty advisor/mentor. The doctoral dissertation must show evidence of originality on the part of the student in the planning and execution of independent scientific work and the results must represent a meaningful contribution to knowledge.

Students must be the primary contributor to the design of the project, in the collection, analysis and interpretation of the data, and in the writing of the thesis or dissertation document. Specific details of any technical assistance, together with acknowledgment of the individual(s) who provided the assistance, must be included in the text of the document. In the absence of such acknowledgments, it is assumed that all data presented in the document were collected directly by the student. Similarly, the source of any special materials used in the project (e.g., antisera, probes, reagents, cell lines, databases) must be specifically acknowledged in the text of the document. In the absence of such acknowledgments, it is assumed that all special materials described in the document were developed or prepared by the student.

**Organization of the Thesis or Dissertation**

The following is an outline of the structure of the thesis or dissertation in the order in which the various sections appear. If any major deviation from the following basic structure is necessary, permission should be obtained from the Graduate Council. The student should consult the advisor/mentor or the Program Director for information about any additional requirements that may be imposed by the student’s Program.

1. **Title and approval pages.** The first page of the thesis is the title page, which should not be numbered. A sample title page is included with these instructions (page 4-5). The second page of the document should be the *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page (page 4-6), which should not be numbered.
2. **Table of contents.** A table of contents, starting with page i using lower case Roman numerals, in which the subject matter is subdivided in logical sequence, should follow the approval page. The heading of the Table of Contents should be typed in capital letters not less than 2 inches from the top of the page. The pages on which subdivision headings appear should be indicated in the Table of Contents. If there are many tables, illustrations or abbreviations, the document should include a list of tables, a list of illustrations and/or a list of abbreviations typed on separate pages after the Table of Contents.

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3. **Acknowledgments.** This section follows Table of Contents and is also numbered with lower case Roman numerals.
4. **Abstract.** This section should briefly summarize the important elements of the thesis or dissertation. It should include a statement of the problem, a brief description of the work performed and a summary of the results and conclusions. It should be numbered with lower case Roman numerals and it should not exceed 500 words.
5. **Main section of the thesis.** The body of the document should be organized into chapters and include an introduction, methods, results, discussion and conclusions. There is flexibility in the way this information can be organized into chapters. If the work has been submitted for publication or has already been published, it may be desirable to use the manuscripts as the basis for preparing individual chapters. If manuscripts are used as the basis for preparing chapters, the overall style of each chapter should be similar. References should not be included with each chapter but rather included as a single listing following the main body of the document (usually after the Summary and Conclusions).
  - a) **Introduction.** The purpose of the introduction is to elucidate the nature of the problem addressed by the thesis or dissertation research. The problem should be clearly presented, and its history discussed through a survey of the literature. The author should explain the rationale behind the scientific approach to the problem.
  - b) **Material and Methods (or Subjects, Apparatus, Procedure).** This section should contain descriptions of the procedures employed in the project. The methods should be presented in detail sufficient to permit another investigator to repeat the procedures.
  - c) **Results.** This section should contain the summarized data from scientific work performed by the author. The results should consist of a written description accompanied by tables, graphs, drawings, photographs or theoretical and statistical analyses where appropriate.
  - d) **Discussion.** This section should contain a discussion of the findings, their significance and their relation to the findings of other investigators.
  - e) **Summary and Conclusions.** This section should contain an abbreviated statement summarizing the findings of the thesis or dissertation. This section should end with a clear statement of conclusions drawn from these findings.
  - f) **References.** References should be included in a single list following the main body of the document (usually after the Summary and Conclusions). References should include a full listing of authors and title of the article and conform to the style of a refereed journal.
  - g) **Appendices.** If desirable, additional data or detailed descriptions of techniques or methodology may be appended to the document.
6. **Tables.** Tables may be single or double-spaced but must conform to the margin requirements (see below). They should be numbered consecutively and should be inserted either at appropriate points in the text or following the main text and references.

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7. **Illustrations.** Drawings, graphs or photographs should be reproduced or mounted on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. The figures should be numbered consecutively, and a figure legend should be placed underneath the figure or on a separate page inserted opposite the figure. The figures may be inserted in the text or may be grouped as plates following the main text and references. Graphs, inked diagrams or other forms of line drawings may be photocopied. Reproductions of photographs containing gradations of tone should retain the detail of the original. A high quality photocopy is acceptable if sufficient detail is retained. If photographs are included, precautions should be taken to avoid excessive curling or wrinkling of the mounted photographs. This problem is greatest with resin coated or double weight photographic paper.
8. **Abbreviations, symbols and units.** Abbreviations should not appear in the title. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text (unless it is a standard unit of measurement) and the abbreviation should follow in parentheses. Only standard abbreviations should be used. These may be found in the following:
  - a) Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals (Ann. Int. Med. 1982; 96:766-771).
  - b) Council of Biological Editors Style Manual: A Guide for Authors, Editors and Publisher in the Biological Sciences 4th ed. Arlington: Council of Biological Editors, 1978.
  - c) Symbols for physical quantities should conform to the recommendations in "Quantities, Units and Symbols" published by the Royal Society, 1975. The International System of Units (SI) should be used where possible.
9. **Typing or printing.** All copies of the document must be of high quality. Acid-free bond paper (or equivalent), 20-24 lb weight, size 8.5 x 11 inches should be used. All typing or printing should be double-spaced except footnotes. Footnotes should be single-spaced with a double space between footnotes. The left-hand margin should be at least 1.5 inches wide, the top and right-hand margins 1.0 inch and the bottom margin not less than 1.0 inch.
  - a) Pages preceding the main section of the document should be numbered consecutively using lower case Roman numerals centered at the bottom of the page. The remainder of the document, starting with page 1 of the Introduction, should be numbered using Arabic numerals inside the margin.
10. **Final approval, binding and submission.** Guidelines for scheduling the oral examination, binding the thesis and obtaining final approval for receipt of degree are provided in Section 2 (master's programs with thesis) and Section 3 (PhD programs) of this document.

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[Sample Title Page]**

THE INFLUENCE OF PRENATAL NUTRITION UPON THE  
DEPOSITION OF IRON IN THE LIVERS OF FETAL RATS

By

Ira A. Manville

A THESIS/DISSERTATION

*[Select appropriate label]*

Presented to the Department of Physiology & Pharmacology  
and the Oregon Health & Science University  
School of Medicine  
in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Science/Master of Public Health *[Select only one]*

May 2005

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**[Sample Certificate of Approval Page]**

**{This form is to be taken to the OHSU Library with the Thesis/Dissertation and is required for Binding}**

School of Medicine

Oregon Health & Science University

---

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL**

---

This is to certify that the PhD dissertation [or] Master’s thesis of

[insert Student Name here]

has been approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor/Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

[add or delete signature lines as needed]



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**Section 5**

**Instructions for the Chair and for Members of the Oral Examination Committee**

**General.** The oral examination shall be open to the public and include the presentation of a seminar. Your principal role will be to conduct the examination in a fair and equitable fashion. You are the delegated representative of the Graduate Council, which expects the chair of the committee to oversee the oral defense to ensure that it is of the highest quality.

**Form of the examination.** You should plan to meet with the committee members in a closed session (in the absence of the candidate and of the public) 15 minutes before the scheduled time of the examination. In this session, you will make certain that all members of the committee have reviewed the student’s record. The student’s transcript will be sent to the Chair of the committee prior to the defense. The advisor or mentor should be given the opportunity to comment about the qualifications and preparation of the student.

Although these examinations have a traditional format, you should entertain suggestions during the closed session for departures from the traditional plan, including whether the audience will be allowed to ask questions. You will assume the responsibility for deciding, after discussion, which if any of these suggestions will be accepted. A decision to limit the duration of the examination or to leave it open-ended may be made at this time.

The examination will begin by the presentation of a public seminar by the candidate. The advisor or mentor will introduce the candidate. After the seminar, you will explain the procedure of the examination to the candidate and the formal questioning will begin. You will make certain that all committee members have an opportunity to ask questions and evaluate the candidate.

Following the examination and dismissal of the candidate and public, the committee will conduct a closed session during which each committee member should be given the opportunity to comment on the candidate and the thesis or dissertation.

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After discussion, the decision about the committee's recommendation shall be made by having each member of the committee sign his/her name in the columns indicating satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance on the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form. Each member will vote on the basis of his/her evaluation of:

- a) the adequacy of preparation of the candidate, and
- b) the acceptability of the thesis or dissertation as a documentary record.

The Chair is responsible for submitting the Oral Examination Certification form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (Room 4135 Mackenzie Hall, L102) within 2 working days after the oral examination.

The examination is considered to be satisfactory if a majority of the examination committee members' record votes of satisfactory.

A tie vote will be considered as an unsatisfactory score for the oral examination.

In the event of a report of unsatisfactory on the oral examination, the examining committee must provide the student and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies with a written description of the deficiencies in the examination performance within 2 weeks of the examination.

The committee may require modification of the thesis or dissertation. Successful completion of the modifications and final approval of the document will be indicated when all members of the Examination Committee who recorded a satisfactory vote for the oral examination have signed the *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page, which will be bound with the thesis.

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**Instructions for the Chair of the Oral Examination Committee**

The Graduate Council will depend on your advice about the preparedness of this candidate to receive a graduate degree. Your vote should be based on your evaluation of the adequacy of preparation of the candidate and on the acceptability of the thesis or dissertation as a documentary record. Several questions should be considered in making this evaluation.

**General Preparation**

Does the candidate give evidence of having been adequately prepared, through course work and directed study, to continue the development of his/her career as a scholar in his/her chosen field? Is the candidate's level of knowledge in general and specific fields adequate to meet your standards of excellence? In making this evaluation, it is not essential that you personally be thoroughly conversant with the candidate's special area. Your observations of the way in which the candidate deals with problems presented by you and other members of the committee can lead to conclusions that are not critically dependent on your own familiarity with the subject area.

**Thesis or Dissertation**

The thesis or dissertation is presented not only to this faculty, but also to the scientific community as a whole. Therefore, it should attest to the student's understanding and appreciation of the fundamental principles of the scientific method. The student must present a written description of scientific work carried out during the course of graduate study. Usually, the master’s thesis is a report of original scientific work conducted by the student under close supervision of the faculty advisor or mentor. The doctoral dissertation must show evidence of originality on the part of the student in the planning and execution of independent scientific work and the results must represent a meaningful contribution to knowledge.

Students must be the primary contributor to the design of the project, in the collection, analysis and interpretation of the data, and in the writing of the thesis or dissertation document. Specific details of any technical assistance, together with acknowledgment of the individual(s) who provided the assistance, must be included in the text of the document. In the absence of such acknowledgments, it is assumed that all data presented in the document were collected directly by the student. Similarly, the source of any special materials used in the project (e.g., antisera, probes, reagents, cell lines, databases) must be specifically acknowledged in the text of the document. In the absence of such acknowledgments, it is assumed that all special materials described in the document were developed or prepared by the student.

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Does the candidate's thesis or dissertation describe a piece of work that meets your standards of excellence in the application of scientific principles to an inquiry? Are the observations relevant, reliable and free from uncontrolled influence? Are the inferences carefully and imaginatively drawn? Does the writing come up to acceptable standards of scientific exposition in English? It is probable that you have been asked to serve on this committee because of your special familiarity with the subject area of the student’s research. Even if this is not the case, your general reactions to the document and to the candidate's treatment of problems will be helpful.

Upon completion of the examination, each committee member will be given the opportunity to comment on the candidate and the thesis or dissertation during a closed session.

After discussion, you will be asked to sign your name in the columns indicating satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance on the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form. You should vote on the basis of your evaluation of:

- a) the adequacy of preparation of the candidate, and
- b) the acceptability of the thesis or dissertation as a documentary record

The examination is considered to be satisfactory if a majority of the examination committee members’ record votes of satisfactory.

A tie vote will be considered as an unsatisfactory score for the oral examination. In the event of a report of unsatisfactory on the oral examination, the examining committee must provide the student and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies with a written description of the deficiencies in the examination performance within 2 weeks of the examination. The committee may require modification of the thesis or dissertation.

Successful completion of the modifications and final approval of the document will be indicated when all members of the Examination Committee who recorded a satisfactory vote for the oral examination have signed the *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page, which will be bound with the thesis. The Chair is responsible for submitting the Oral Examination Certification form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (Room 4155 Mackenzie Hall, L102 GS) within 2 working days after the oral examination.

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**Section 6**

**Checklists**

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**Checklist for Master’s Students without Thesis**

**Master’s Program mentor/advisor assignment.** A signed *MASTER’S PROGRAM MENTOR/ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT* form must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies as soon as a mentor/advisor is assigned and whenever there is a change in the mentor/advisor.

**Complete Program Requirements.** All program requirements must be completed before or during the term in which the application for degree is submitted.

**Application for degree.** The student must submit the *APPLICATION FOR DEGREE* form to the Registrar’s Office one term prior to completing degree requirements.

**Exit photograph for class picture.**

Complete the *EXIT PHOTO REQUEST* form and make an appointment with OHSU Medical Photography. Send a copy of the Medical Photography services receipt to the Graduate Studies Office.

OR

Provide the Office of Graduate Studies with a high quality digital image (either color or black & white) in JPG format. Image should be a head shot on plain background, in the style of a passport photo.

**Exit Contact Information Form.** Complete the *EXIT CONTACT INFORMATION* form and return it to the Graduate Studies Office.

**Notice of Program Completion.** The Program will send the Office of Graduate Studies a notice of Program completion in either an email or as a Capstone completion form. The Office of Graduate Studies cannot confirm completion of requirements until this is received from the Program.

**Graduation - School of Medicine Commencement.**

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**Checklist for Master’s Students with Thesis**

**Master’s Program mentor/advisor assignment.** A signed *MASTER’S PROGRAM MENTOR/ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT* form must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies as soon as a mentor/advisor is assigned and whenever there is a change in the mentor/advisor.

**Request for appointment of a thesis advisory committee.** The *REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE* form must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies within 1 year of admission to the program or upon commencement of the thesis research, whichever is earlier.

**Complete Program Requirements.** All program requirements must be completed before or during the term in which the final oral exam is scheduled.

**Request for oral examination.** The Program Director must submit the *REQUEST FOR ORAL EXAMINATION* form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at least 4 weeks before the scheduled thesis defense.

**Posting notices announcing the oral exam.** The exam must be held on campus and be open to the public. The Program is responsible for setting the date, time and place of the exam and for posting notices on campus.

**Distribution of thesis to the examination committee.** At least 2 weeks before the oral examination, the student must distribute the unbound thesis to the thesis committee. The Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy of the approved *REQUEST FOR ORAL EXAMINATION* form, the ‘Instructions’ for committee members, and the ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION form to the Committee Chair for distribution to the committee members. The Committee Chair will provide the ‘Instructions’ to the committee members.

**Recording the outcome of oral exam.** After the exam, the oral examination committee members will sign the appropriate column of the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form to document the outcome of the exam. The Committee Chair must send the signed form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies within 2 working days of the exam.

**Corrections to thesis and final approval by the committee.** If necessary, make corrections to the thesis within 6 months of the exam. The *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page must be signed by committee members to indicate that all required corrections have been completed, verifying final committee approval of the thesis. This original form is required by the library to bind the Thesis. The form is not required by the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Thesis binding.** A minimum of three copies must be bound; contact the OHSU Library to arrange for binding. Send a copy of the binding receipt to the Graduate Studies Office.

**Application for degree.** The student must submit the *APPLICATION FOR DEGREE* form to the Registrar’s Office one term prior to completing degree requirements.

**Exit photograph for class picture.** Complete the *EXIT PHOTO REQUEST* form and make an appointment with OHSU Medical Photography. Send a copy of the Medical Photography services receipt to the Graduate Studies Office.

OR - Provide the Office of Graduate Studies with a high quality digital image (either color or black & white) in JPG format. Image should be a head shot on plain background, in the style of a passport photo.

**Exit Contact Information Form.** Complete the required *EXIT CONTACT INFORMATION* form and return it to the Graduate Studies Office.

**Final approval by Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.** After the original binding receipt, the Exit Contact form and the medical photography services receipt are received by the Graduate Studies Office, the Associate Dean will sign final approval on the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form.

**Graduation - School of Medicine Commencement.**



**OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – GRADUATE STUDIES  
Guidelines and Regulations for Completion of Master’s and Ph.D. Degrees  
Checklist for Doctoral Candidates**

- PhD mentor assignment.** A signed *PhD MENTOR ASSIGNMENT* form must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies as soon as a mentor is assigned (usually at the end of the first year) and whenever there is a change in the mentor.
- Advancement to PhD candidacy.** The *ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY* form must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at least three (3) terms before the oral defense.
- Request for appointment of a dissertation advisory committee.** The *REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE* form must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies within 1 year of advancement to candidacy or upon commencement of dissertation research, whichever is earlier.
- Request for oral examination.** The Program Director must submit the *REQUEST FOR ORAL EXAMINATION* form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at least 4 weeks before the scheduled dissertation defense.
- Posting notices announcing the oral exam.** The exam must be held on campus and be open to the public. The Program is responsible for setting the date, time and place of the exam and for posting notices on campus.
- Distribution of dissertation to the examination committee.** At least 2 weeks before the oral examination, the student must distribute the unbound thesis to the thesis committee. The Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy of the approved *REQUEST FOR ORAL EXAMINATION* form, the ‘Instructions’ for committee members, and the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form to the Committee Chair for distribution to the committee members. The Committee Chair will provide the ‘Instructions’ to the committee members.
- Recording the outcome of oral exam.** After the exam, the oral examination committee members will sign the appropriate column of the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form to document the outcome of the exam. The Committee Chair must send the signed form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies within 2 working days of the exam.
- Corrections to dissertation and final approval by the committee.** If necessary, make corrections to the dissertation within 6 months of the exam. The *CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL* page must be signed by committee members to indicate that all required corrections have been completed, verifying final committee approval of the dissertation. This original form is required by the library to bind the Dissertation. The form is not required by the Office of Graduate Studies.
- Dissertation binding.** A minimum of three copies must be bound; contact OHSU Library to arrange for binding. Take the ORIGINAL of the binding receipt to the Graduate Studies Office, do not leave the credit card receipt attached.
- Application for degree.** The student must submit the *APPLICATION FOR DEGREE* form to the Registrar’s Office one term prior to completing degree requirements.
- Contact Information Form and Exit Survey Form.** The *EXIT CONTACT INFORMATION* form and the *SURVEY OF EARNED DOCTORATES* (<http://survey.norc.uchicago.edu/doctorate>) are required. Return the *EXIT CONTACT INFORMATION* form to the Graduate Studies Office.
- Exit photograph for class picture.** Complete the *EXIT PHOTO REQUEST* form and make an appointment with OHSU Medical Photography. Send a copy of the Medical Photography services receipt to the Graduate Studies Office.  
OR - Provide the Office of Graduate Studies with a high quality digital image (either color or black & white) in JPG format. Image should be a head shot on plain background, in the style of a passport photo.
- Final approval by Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.** After the original binding receipt, the Exit Contact form and the medical photography services receipt are received by the Graduate Studies Office, the Associate Dean will sign final approval on the *ORAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION* form.
- Graduation - School of Medicine Commencement.**